

THE WEEKLY GRAPHIC

T. E. SUBLETTE, Proprietor

KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI

McKinley's lead continues to grow in spite of Platt, Quay and Clarkson.

THE COURT HOUSE BONDS.

The people by a decisive majority, have selected the public square as a court house site, and that matter is disposed of for all time. If a court house is ever built it will be built on the site selected by the people. All are agreed that a court house is badly needed. It now only remains to raise the necessary \$50,000, and the best method of doing this is the question to be considered, and it should be considered only from a business standpoint.

There are some who favor a sinking fund, to be raised by increasing the tax levy for five years, others favor five year bonds, a small portion of the taxpayers favor a single levy that will raise the entire amount in one payment of taxes. A large portion of the tax-payers, however, favor a 5-20 bond, that is a bond that may run twenty years or be paid in five years at the option of the county court.

If we provide for a sinking fund to amount of \$50,000 in five years, the money cannot be loaned to advantage owing to the shortness of the time, and would therefore have to lay idle in the vaults until ready to be expended on the building. This would entail a loss in interest for the five years, amounting to \$8,000. Add to this rent for five years at \$1000 per year, the amount we now pay, and we have a clear loss of \$13,000 by the sinking fund method.

The five year bond is open to the same objection as the sinking fund method as it entails the same loss in interest. The only thing in its favor, the court house could be built at once instead of waiting five years, and would thus stop the \$1000 a year rent. The single tax levy is objectionable because of the extreme burden it would place upon the people under the present business depression.

Of all the methods considered the 5-20 bond is by far the most preferable. These bonds would draw only five per cent and would sell at a premium that would at the final settlement of the debt, reduce the interest to four per cent per annum. Owing to the length of time the bonds would have to run the sinking fund could be readily loaned at 8 per cent, and thus not a single cent of the people's money need lay idle. This accrued interest, together with the amount of rent saved would go far toward paying for the building. If at any time after five years the money could not be loaned, it could be applied toward the discharge of the debt as the 5-20 bond gives the county court that option.

There are some who object to a bond issue because they are afraid it will increase taxes. This will not be the case if the bonds are voted. For many years the county has been providing a sinking fund for the discharge of the railroad indebtedness. This debt is now provided for and the money which has been at interest is ready to pay off the entire bonded indebtedness of the county. The taxes hereafter would be less than they have been if the court house bonds are not voted, but voting them will not increase the rate of taxation above what it has been for many years, and careful calculation shows that even with the court house bonds it will be slightly less.

The people have selected the site; the bonds are 5-20's, the most economical that can be issued, because every dollar of the sinking fund can be placed at interest or applied in the discharge of the debt; a court house is needed because the records are liable to be destroyed by fire at any time; labor is cheap, and there will never be a time when the money distributed to the working men will do more good. Besides all this it will give a new impetus to business, and thus benefit every citizen of the county. Is there any reason why we should not vote the bonds?

For two years the old line insurance companies have had everything their own way in Kirksville. Business men were charged exorbitant rates for protection against loss by fire, notwithstanding we have one of the finest systems of water works in the State, and were promised a reduction of rates as soon as we had adequate protection. Instead of reducing the rate the companies raised it nearly 50 per cent before the water works were completed. The business men have been chafing under the insurance burden ever since. They were coolly told, however, that they could pay the rates demanded or do without insurance. To get cheaper insurance has been the problem, and that problem is now in a fair way to be solved. The Town Mutual Fire Association established an agency here this week, and will devote its business exclusively to insuring town property. The immense business done by this company last year speaks for itself, and was done at a cost to the policy holders of one-third the rate paid to board companies. The GRAPHIC will have more to say from week to week in regard to mutual insurance. Our business men should investigate the matter, and a thorough investigation will convince them that they have been wasting money by paying the exorbitant rates exacted by the old line companies. Mr. Watson, in the post-office, lobby, is the agent for Kirksville. Call on him for particulars in regard to the Town Mutual.

Winter in Northern Japan.

We are first warned that winter is approaching, while the days are yet quite warm and pleasant in November, by the natives covering their beautiful shrubs and evergreens.

They put props all round them, wrap them in coarse straw matting which protects them from the heavy snows and prevents the limbs from being broken.

About the first of December we have our first snow storm and from that time the snow falls almost constantly day and night up to the middle or last of March; however the sun shines warm even in midwinter and every time he has a chance to show his genial old face, does his best at chasing the snow away. As it is the snow lays about three feet deep here in the valley all winter long and on the mountains till late in July.

With the first snow storm the people begin to clothe themselves for winter, those that can afford it wearing five or six outer garments padded with cotton. The men of the upper and middle classes wear as wraps, long ulsters with a cape and hood attached, made of the best English cloth in light gray and tan colors and lined throughout with pale blue, lavender or cream silks. These colors make rather a startling contrast with their dark skin, coal black hair, and eyes. Most of the men of this class have adopted the hat and shoe of civilized countries, but most of the young men of the student class still go bareheaded in summer and wear a long wool scarf thrown loosely over the head in winter.

Women wear a heavy wool shawl and a wool or silk covering for the head, called a zoukin; but they still cling to their wooden sandals and when the snow is very deep they wear a straw boot which is soon soaked through in the melting snow.

The people of the lower classes wear a red blanket round them and a cotton zoukin for the head. This head covering must always be removed from the head when speaking to any one on the street, no matter how cold the morning may be; and callers when departing carry their wraps till outside the door.

The clearing away of the snow from the roofs and streets furnishes a large per cent of the work for coolies during the winter season. They work from early dawn till late at night for a sum of money equal to about ten cents in American money. The snow must be shoveled from the roofs once a week, and it soon becomes so deep on either side of the street that in walking along the street you can see only the roofs of the houses. The coolies are then set to work, with their long wooden shovels, to hauling it away on little hand sleds or building great pyramids and cones.

For travel in winter the jinrikisha is set aside and a small sled built somewhat on the plan of a Japanese house takes its place. They are quite comfortable, as they are all enclosed and we have only to remove our shoes, step in and the door is closed, and after the shoes are safely deposited in a little box at the back of the sled the coolies start off at a brisk pace. The sleds are only large enough for one person, and as they are all enclosed you have no chance of speaking a word to your companion during the journey.

January is the coldest month during the year, but the thermometer seldom reaches ten, in fact there are few days that it remains all day below freezing; but as we live in a Japanese house, and in some places there is nothing more than a thin sheet of paper between us and the winter winds, we have to dress warm and keep good fires. We keep our rooms much warmer than our Japanese friends like them, and when we are expecting guests always let the fire go down. However one evening we neglected this and it was just a few minutes before time for our teacher's meeting, the thermometer was pretty high and suggested sticking it into the snow to cool it off while we opened up all the doors which means sliding back all the walls in a Japanese house, and by the time the teachers had all assembled we had the room comfortable for them. They like the temperature to range from thirty-five to forty. The snow at this writing is still about three feet deep and we had another heavy storm the first of this week. The days though are quite warm, and we need only a little fire while the nights are not very cold.

The famous little plum trees, many of them more than a hundred years old, are already in bloom; these are the dwarf varieties grown in pots and are largely prized by their owners.

ALICE M. OTTO.

Hiroaki, Japan, Mar. 16, '96.

County Court Proceedings

APRIL 10 AND 11, 1896.

Road overseers bonds approved as follows:

Morrow tp—J S Billington, dis. 2; J W Vanlaningham, dis 3; N J Hammons, dis 5. Nineveh tp—W R Shumate, dis. 3; J J Shott dis 6. Pettis tp—W A Grisom, dis 3; S K Shumaker, dis 4. Clay tp—N Flynn, dis 2; Wm Hart, dis 3; John G Seigle, dis 4 D J Clarkson, dis 8. Salt River tp—D A Watson, dis 2; A R Bowman, dis 5. Benton tp—John Fickel, dis 7; J W Cupp, dis 9; L D Denton, dis 5.

Liberty tp—E J Lininger, dis 1; D D Novinger dis 2; W J Daniels, dis 4; G W Eitel, dis 5; J R Burchett, dis 6; C A Marques, dis 4; Polk and Benton.

Walnut tp—C W Jennings, dis 1; W F Miller, dis 3.

School fund mortgages ordered released: G W Rupe, J W Strubling, T Roberson, A J Huffman, J T Kent, W H Long, J Lewis, D N Williams, Sarah A Crenshaw, Tyler Paine R & B Comrs, report on the building of Dean Bridge Liberty tp. Sherwood bridge Salt River tp, Keim bridge Benton tp, examined and approved.

Erroneous assortment of J M De France corrected. Bonds and mortgages approved and loans made H R Dean, L A Morrow, Jr.

Road overseers appointed as follows: M T Bragg, dis 4, M Long dis 7, and D H Crawford, dis 8, Wilson tp; W A Polly, dis 2 Pettis tp; John Fickel dis 6 and L A Morrow, Dis 8, Benton tp.

Andrew M Gregg, appointed Justice of the Peace Wilson tp vice S Long deceased.

Road districts changed: Road district 2 and 3 Wilson tp changed as follows, Road dis 2 be composed of school dis 3. Road dis 3 be composed of all that part of school dis 8 that lies in Wilson tp and road dis 8 be composed of School dis 4 Wilson tp, road dis 5 Benton tp be changed so as to be composed of school dis 1-6-15 and road dis 9 Benton tp to be composed of school dis 4-6-15.

Bridges ordered to be built: one across Hog Creek, Liberty tp on Ringo Point road and one across Mulberry creek on Geo. W Novinger road in Nineveh tp, Tyler Paine, R and B Comr ordered to let contracts.

T L Conner, bond and mort to

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WEST SIDE SQUARE

county ordered to be foreclosed.

Settlement of Wm Belfield overseer dis 6, Walnut tp approved. Theo Moyer contract to build Novinger bridge Nineveh tp approved.

H. A Kellogg and C W Linder appointed on county institute board. B F Scofield application for 1 pool table, license approved and license granted.

Voting place for Benton tp for election April 21, 96: Northeast Benton precinct, McCall's office rear end Hecker building. Northwest Benton precinct Sheriff's office, Masonic Hall building. Southwest Benton precinct, Kibler's Iron clad building. Southeast Benton precinct, Miller's carpenter shop.

Warrants drawn as follows: Road and bridge fund \$194.48 Pauper fund 95.50 Contingent fund 159.85 Salary fund 461.75

Total. 1211.58

Petit jurors drawn for May term 1896, Adair county, circuit court:

Nineveh tp—David Scott, Mart Hughs. Clay tp—C S Beardsley, Wm Wheatcraft, Micheal Hayes. Pettis tp—J Z Eitel, Saml Hayes. Morrow tp—Henry Capps, J H Sallade. Wilson tp—John Cook, A F Bumpus. Walnut tp—Albert Bragg, Geo Graham. Benton tp—S Scofield, A M west, Bently Dodson, J H Campbell, C Borneman. Polk tp—Leander Mikel, George Linhard, Jr. Salt river tp—Chas Bruner, J Crossgrove. Liberty tp—Geo W Eitel, Clark Zeigler.

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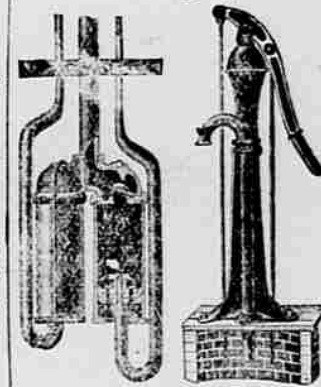
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